

From Whitaker's Red Book of Commerce or Who's Who in Business 1914, TONY SWALES sends the following additional information to that supplied by Roy Cooper in Bulletin 247.

"The African Association (Royal Liver Building, Liverpool) was incorporated as a limited company in 1889. It was established as an amalgamation of English firms and companies trading in the Oil Rivers (known as Southern Nigeria Protectorate) as Thomas Harrison & Co.; Stuart « Douglas; Holt & Cotterill; Hatton & Cookson; British & Continental African Co. Ltd.; The Liverpool African Co. (all of Liverpool) also Couper, Johnson & Co. Ltd.; Taylor, Laughland & Co. (Glasgow); Richard & William King (Bristol); also other companies.

The company is largely interested in the Niger Co. Ltd. to whose predecessors it sold its up-river interests on the Niger River in 1893. Since foundation it has largely extended its operation in Nigeria and has opened an extensive business in the leading towns of the Gold Coast and in the Canary Islands. In Nigeria there are 17 extensive trading factories and 10 establishments on the Gold Coast. Staff: 100 in west Africa (Whitemen) Branches: Manchester, Hamburg, Canary Islands, Tenerife."

(Presumably any of these companies could use the AA/Ld perfin but this does not answer my original query about the firm V.B. Company limited of Royal Liver Building, using this perfin in 1913. Perhaps the stamp was borrowed or bought from a user of the perfin in the same building when V.B.Co.Ltd. ran out of stamps one day? Ed. M.R.S.)